

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 1-67 were pending in the application at the time the present Office Action was mailed. No claims have been amended, added, or canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-67 remain pending.

II. Rejections and Responses to Rejections

The Office Action rejected claims 1-67. More specifically, the status of the claims in light of the Office Action is as follows:

(A) Claims 1, 2, 6-8, 14, 17, 30-33, 37-39, 46, 49, 56, and 63-67 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Iverson, Lee, "NODAL: A Filesystem for Ubiquitous Collaboration" ("NODAL"); and

(B) Claims 3-5, 9-13, 15, 16, 18-29, 34-36, 40-45, 47, 48, and 50-62 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over NODAL in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,529,905 ("Bray").

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

A. Response to Rejections of Claims 1, 2, 6-8, 14, 17, 30-33, 37-39, 46, 49, 56, and 63-67 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 2, 6-8, 14, 17, 30-33, 37-39, 46, 49, 56, and 63-67 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over NODAL. In the Amendment filed on March 19, 2007, the following amendment (shown underlined) was made to claim 1:

a component that receives an indication of a privilege for the node, the privilege indicating access rights for the node and determined based on access rights for another node of the hierarchical document, the indication including a holder of the privilege;

It appears that the Office Action did not take into account the amendment made to claim 1. (See Office Action, p. 3, stating claim 1 in its unamended form.) Applicants respectfully request that claim 1 as amended in the Amendment filed on March 19, 2007, be examined.

The Office Action asserts the following with regard to NODAL:

See also, NODAL, page 17, last full paragraph, teaching that the access rights are determined based on another node, specifically a password.

(Office Action, p. 3, emphasis added.) NODAL describes using a password as part of an "external method" of authenticating users. (See NODAL, p. 17.) Because NODAL describes that the method is external, a password therefore cannot be a node within a hierarchical document in NODAL. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 6-8, 14, 17, 30, and 31 are patentable over NODAL. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections of independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2, 6-8, 14, 17, 30, and 31.

Claims 32, 33, 37-39, 46, 49, 56, and 63-67 recite "receiving an indication of a privilege for the node, the privilege indicating access rights for the node and determined based on access rights for another node of the hierarchical document, the indication including a holder of the privilege." As described above, these features are neither taught nor suggested by NODAL. Accordingly, these claims are patentable over NODAL. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections of independent claim 32 and dependent claims 33, 37-39, 46, 49, 56, and 63-67.

B. Response to Rejections of Claims 3-5, 9-13, 15, 16, 18-29, 34-36, 40-45, 47, 48, and 50-62 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Office Action rejected claims 3-5, 9-13, 15, 16, 18-29, 34-36, 40-45, 47, 48, and 50-62 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over NODAL in view of Bray. Claims 3-5, 9-13, 15, 16, and 18-29 depend from base claim 1, and claims 34-36, 40-45, 47, 48, and 50-62 depend from base claim 32. As discussed above, NODAL fails to teach

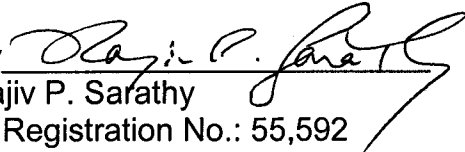
or suggest the features of base claims 1 and 32. Bray fails to cure the above-noted deficiencies of NODAL to support Section 103 rejections of base claims 1 and 32. Accordingly, claims 3-5, 9-13, 15, 16, 18-29, 34-36, 40-45, 47, 48, and 50-62 are patentable over the combination of NODAL and Bray for at least the reason that these references, either alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the features of claims 1 and 32. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections of claims 3-5, 9-13, 15, 16, 18-29, 34-36, 40-45, 47, 48, and 50-62.

III. Conclusion

The claims each recite a novel combination of elements that is neither taught nor suggested by the applied references and so cannot be properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 or 103. In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: 11/30/07

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Rajiv P. Sarathy
Registration No.: 55,592
PERKINS COIE LLP
P.O. Box 1247
Seattle, Washington 98111-1247
(206) 359-8000
(206) 359-7198 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant